

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-7, 9 and 10 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head, comprising:

at least one ink absorber containing a coagulation inhibitor and absorbing the ink discharged from the print head, the coagulation inhibitor inhibiting a coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink.

2. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a platen supporting a print medium from below in an area including a print area where the print head ejects the ink onto the print medium[[:]],

wherein the at least one ink absorber is installed in the platen to absorb the ink ejected outside the print medium when a printing operation is performed on edge portions of the print medium.

3. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a preliminary ejection means for preliminary-ejecting the ink from the print head;
and

a preliminary ejection receiver for accommodating the ink preliminary-ejected by

the preliminary ejection means[(:)],

wherein the at least one ink absorber absorbs the ink accommodated in the preliminary ejection receiver.

4. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an ink discharging means for discharging the ink from the print head by means other than an ejection; and

an ink discharging path for transporting the ink discharged by the ink discharging means[(:)],

wherein the at least one ink absorber absorbs the ink transported through the ink discharging path.

5. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a reaction liquid head for ejecting a reaction liquid, the reaction liquid accelerating a coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink;

a reaction liquid discharging means for discharging the reaction liquid from the reaction liquid head; and

a reaction liquid discharging path for transporting the reaction liquid discharged by the reaction liquid discharging means[(:)],

wherein the at least one ink absorber absorbs the ink transported through the ink discharging path and the reaction liquid transported through the reaction liquid discharging path.

6. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reaction liquid head for ejecting a reaction liquid, the reaction liquid accelerating a coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink.

7. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a supply means for supplying the coagulation inhibitor to the at least one ink absorber.

8. (Original) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said supply means comprises a coagulation inhibiting liquid head for ejecting the coagulation inhibitor.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head, comprising:

an ink absorber for absorbing the ink discharged from the print head; and

~~an~~ application means for applying a coagulation inhibitor to the ink absorber, the coagulation inhibitor inhibiting a coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an ink absorber applicable to ~~the~~ an ink jet printing apparatus of claim 1 for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head, the ink absorber for absorbing the ink discharged from the print head, said method comprising the steps of:

immersing the ink absorber in a liquid containing ~~the~~ a coagulation inhibitor, the coagulation inhibitor for inhibiting coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink; and

drying the ink absorber that was immersed ~~with~~ in the liquid.

11. (Original) An ink absorber manufactured by the method of claim 10.